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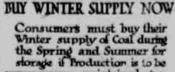
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H.a. Garfuld

Snowfoot

By Alger Ray Perrine

won't you?"

"Oh I'm past all that, lads." "No, no," pressed an eager, excited coterie of schoolboys. "There's some new fellows here and we've been

bragging about your acts." "All right, I'll see if Snowfoot has forgotten his lessons. Don't let any of you fellows get the circus fever out of this, though. The glare and glitter don't last fong, and I wasted the best years of my life in the sawdust ring the lighting system. and you see what I've turned out to

"The jolly friend of everybody!" an enthusiastic chorus of

"Yes, but a shiftless rover, never settling down, Jack-of-all-trades, a meal today, none tomorrow-Houpla: Snowfoot!

Everybody in town knew Snowfoot. He was a big built, gentle but strong and steady and belonged to Widow Brayton, Everybody, too, knew Widow Brayton and pitted her, for she was desperately poor and an invalid. There were two children. Ned a lad of eleven and Alma just turning sixteen. When the father died these two had stepped into the breach so far as their limited capacity of earning could count. Alma was receiving a mere pittance in a sort of apprenticeship to the village milliner. Ned, young as he was earned ten dollars a week with old

This was how he did it: A Mr. Dalby, sickly and a cripple, with his wife and a bired helper, ran a small farm a short distance from the Brayton place. There were fifteen cows. and he made a proposition to Mrs. block and bench frames on fire, Brayton to have Ned help milk these and supply the milk to regular customers. Mrs. Brayton had Snowfoot and a wagon, Ned was a loyal, enterprising booked as though the family was on the road to better times.

instead of sewing braid only, we shall have all kinds of money, mother," Alma used to say.

Paul Dacre had dropped into Fernon the public street. Snowfoot had fast? collapsed when some equine allment came suddenly upon him and was lying prone upon the ground between the Long Distance shafts, writhing and gasping.

"He's a goner" an old timer had pro-

"Let me see. I know considerable about horses," said Paul, coming up. Large Padded Vans for Cross Country | He examined the eyes and mouth of the animal, took a pencil, wrote the names of two ingredients on a chip of wood and said; "Go to the drug store mix these powders in a quart of hor water and hurry back as fast as you

> Ned sped away with the prescription. He returned with a steaming jar. Deft and skillful, the stranger administered the medicine. In five minutes old Snowfoot was regarding him with a look as though he fully comprehended his attention, and when he at length gained his feet he lovingly laid his cheek against Paul's shoulder.

They became great friends, those three. Then a new token of interest came into Paul Dacre's life. He naturally met Alma and they became quite friendly. Head-strong, erratic, ne'erdo-well as he was, there was something beautiful in his love for Ned and old Snowfoot. Paul did odd Jobs in the and to help Ned get over his route.

As to Alma, he idolized her, and told er so, "Some day I'll make a fortune," he declared. "I'll make you all rich and you'll have so many suitors you can pick some prince or major general

And now Paul, homeward bound, was surrounded by a crowd of juvenile clever animal he had trained in old- towing of 216,000 cubic feet of lumber time circus tricks started running around in a ring. Paul described a running jump, to land squarely upon the back of the horse. A dozen times in the week.

Paul stood spellbound with dread end doubt, when, late the next aftersoon, he went up to the house to accompany Ned on his evening delivery ounds. Ned was seated on the step of the wagon, a picture of disconsolate lismay. From inside the house came the wailing of Mrs. Brayton. Alma one out wiping the tears from her

"Ch. Mr. Dacre," she cried, "Snow-

foot is gone!" "Gene!" repeated Paul, aghast. "Yes, there was an old debt of poor er to pay it. Our creditor promised to wait, but two hours ago he appeared with the sheriff and a writ. They seized the horse, auctioned him off, and a man taking a string of horses to sell for poultry and eggs.

EMERSON

Roy Griffith and family spent last Thursday at Mt. Pleasant. Mrs. Hugh Tedham and son, Paul, of Ithaca visited his parents J. F Peters, the past week

Mrs. Powers gave an ice cream so-cial at her home Friday night for the

benefit of the Red Cross.

Mr. Shelley is visiting his daughter. Mrs. Basore,and family for several

Several families around here are with Mond Griffith and mother . une

at the stock yards in the city bid in lowfoot and drove him off.

Paul was speedy activity personified. He hurried to a neighbor and arranged for a horse until his return. "I'll get back Snowfoot if I have to go to jail for it!" he declared, and was

off on the trail of the man with the market-bound string of horses It was the next morning when Paul reached the city and located the horse market at the stock yards, close on the heels of Snowfoot. He found where his favorite and some twenty other horses were housed in a pen, to be sold

at auction the next morning. Paul had but one idea, to make away with Snowfoot. He would wait till dark. Then his old friend should find freedom. Paul put in the time wandering about the great yards to finally come to a great building arched over with glass and just being completed, July 1st, 1918. It was a vast auditorium, built to house farmers' conventions and stock shows. At one end was a stage. Nothing was yet set in place, and pulleyed ropes and platforms were suspended from the roof rafters, from which workmen were suspended putting in

About the middle of the building stood a well-dressed, important-looking man, holding his little four-year-old daughter by the finnd. He was giving orders as to certain construction de tails to the contractors, and, Paul learned casually, was head officer of the cattle exchange, a man of enormous wealth who made a hobby of improved

chardeliers and otherwise perfecting

His restive little daughter, a bright, lovely little midget, had taken adother end of the building. She had clambered up the steps leading to the stage and was running up and down the platform, pleased at the hollow echo of her pattering feet on the smooth boards.

"Hi, there!" suddenly rang out a frightful yell aloft. Within a flashing cond of time the scene was one of indescribable confusion. The fusing lamp of one of the overhead workers had exploded. The dripping contents had scattered everywhere; up aloft the whole inside framework was ablaze, The burning liquid, dropping to the floor, had set a great heap of shavings.

Paul chanced to be near the stage. As he saw an impassable barrier of fire shut off the entire front end of the building he heard the vain shouts of lad, worked early and late and it the agonized father, beaten back by the curtain of tire, pleading for the rescue of his darling child. The brick "As soon as I am able to trim hats wall behind the stage was solid. The fire was advancing to lick up the new framework. Paul ran to the child.

"Little one," he said hurriedly, "for papa's sake will you do just as I say? dale one morning early when Ned If I set you on my back with your arms stood leaning in dismay over Snowfoot around my neck, will you hold fast-

> "You won't burn, darling. You shall be safe with your father in a jiffy, if you just hold on and never let go."

It was well that the old skill of his one-time trapeze experience held Paul Dacre in good stead now. The little one kept her word like a Trojan. She did not even whisper as, half way up one of the long ropes, a sweep of cinders came against them like a binst. Then they were at the rafters. Seizing a board. Paul smashed out a broad sash. Now they were on the roof. He drew up the eighty-odd feet of rope, let it trail down over the roof, and inch by inch descended down the slant, over the edge, and the gathered crowd rescuer and the little child.

Paul Dacre did not have to steal Snowfoot to get him back home. He could have redeemed the animal had it taken thousands, for the father of the little Evaline could not sufficiently show his gratitude. He offered Paul the charge of a stock farm at a high salary. He even came down to the Brayton home to visit him. And Alma began to see the nobleness of character in the ex-circus rider. And little Evaline was showing Alma how she had clung to Paul the day of the fire, town, but every morning he was or and putting out her hands drew the face of Alma close to her own.

And as it nestled there, the chubby hand drew that of Paul in loving contact, and Alma's eyes met those of Paul, and the revelation of perfect love

Lumber Raft to Cross Sea.

One of the marvels of the age, acadmirers. He pretended to whisper in cording to the marine authorities, an Snowfoot's ear. Immediately the invention which will make possible the safely across the Atlantic ocean, has been completed at a provincial port.

No matter how severe the storms or how dangerous the undertaking, the they sped around the ring. Then Paul big raft is so constructed that it will ande Snowfoot steal a handkerchief be able to make the long trip without from his pocket, locate a hidden ear any possibility of loss or damage, Most of corn and nod his head seven times of the machinery used in this initial when asked how many days there were craft can be used over again, and so the cost of construction, estimated at close to \$30,000, will not affect the business end of the undertaking.

The lumber, said to be sorely needed on the other side, is valued at \$150,000. The big raft has been under construction for several months, 70 men being employed all the time on the work of building it.

The Poultry Flock.

Reports recently gathered concerning 5.298 flocks of poultry show that the average number of hens per flock is 107, as compared with 146, in 1914. dend father. It was beyond our pow- This information, which was obtained by an incubator manufacturer in the siddle West, indicates that shortage if supply has been an important facor in producing present high prices

> The ice cream social at the home of Roy Griffith Thursday night was well attended. The proceeds went for the benefit of the church.

Will Eichorn is very sick with stomach trouble. A nurse is caring

Mr. Hetzman and Miss Amy Press-ler went to Camp Custer Friday to see Mr. Hetzman's son, Clarence, who expects to go to France soon.

Mr. Pur-lee and family visited at Lew Mann's Friday evening. The Women's Mission Circle meets

5th (Friday p. m.).

DAVIS DISTRICT

There will be a patriotic meeting at the Davis July 8th. Everybody invited to attend. Edna Hanford of near Alma visited

over Sunday with Mrs. C. H. Patter-Valerie Ball of Sumner visited friends here last week.

Mrs. Lucile Thorn returned last Saturday from visiting her husband and other relatives in Clinton county, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Beard spent part of last week with friends near Breckenridge.

Ernest Baxter of Lansing made his parents a farewell visit before leaving for Camp Custer the 27th.

ADVERTISED LETTERS Advertised list for the week ending

Vinton E. Rall Mr. and Mrs. A. Baker Mr. A. J. Beck Mr. Glenn Clinton

Miss Coile Mrs. Emily Carley Walter Dailey Mr. Ernest G. Ellison

V. L. Farnsworth Mr. Claude Hall H. Walker Kelly Mrs. S. Kinnaman Mrs. T. S. Losie Miss Margaret Morris Mr. Max Moshowity Mrs. O. B. Miler, (two) Mr. J. D. McBain

Mr. Fred Osborn

Mrs. Amelia Parker

Neta Task Mrs. Kate Sargent, (two) Mrs. Harry B. Young. Mr. George Young The above if not called for will be sent ot the Dead Letter office July

V. P. Cash, Postmaster.





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